What is claimed is:

1 A printing process, comprising

printing with a lithographic printing press having a printing plate,

stopping the printing press,

applying a plate conditioner to the printing plate, and

after a desired time, starting the printing press and resuming printing, wherein the plate conditioner comprises an organic liquid having hydroxyl functionality and a solid organic compound that is at least partially soluble in the liquid having hydroxyl functionality.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner comprises at least about 5% by weight of a liquid polyol.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from about 10% by weight to about 99% by weight of a liquid polyol.

4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from about 25% by weight to about 98% by weight of a liquid polyol.

5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from 50% by weight to about 95% by weight of a liquid polyol.

6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the solid organic compound is selected from the group consisting of solid polyols, gums, and combinations thereof.

7. A process according to claim 1, wherein the solid organic compound has a melting point of at least about 25°C.

8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the organic liquid having hydroxyl functionality is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propanediol, 1,3-propanediol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, and combinations thereof.

9. A process according to claim 1, wherein the solid organic compound is selected from the group consisting of gum arabic, carboxyl methyl cellulose, carboxyl ethyl cellulose, salts of carboxyl-functional celluloses, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), solid polyalkylene glycols, trimethylolpropane, glycerol, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, 2,2,4-trimethylpentanediol, triethylolpropane, hyperbranched polyols based on polyols having three or more hydroxyl groups, cyclohexanedimethanols, and combinations thereof.

10. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from about 0.05% by weight to about 5% by weight of the solid organic compound.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from about 0.1% by weight to about 1% by weight of the solid organic compound.

12. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plate conditioner further comprises water.

13. A process according to claim 12, wherein the solid organic compound is salted with a base.

14. A process according to claim 1, wherein the ink comprises an emulsified fluid phase.

15. A printing process, comprising

printing an ink with a lithographic printing press having a printing plate,

stopping the printing press,

applying a plate conditioner to the printing plate, and

after a desired time, starting the printing press and resuming printing,

wherein the ink comprises

a continuous phase comprising a polymer and

an emulsified phase comprising a member selected from the group consisting of water, liquid polyols, and combinations thereof,

and wherein the plate conditioner comprises

an organic liquid having hydroxyl functionality and

a solid organic compound that is at least partially soluble in the liquid having hydroxyl functionality.

16. A process according to claim 15, wherein the emulsified phase comprises a liquid polyol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, and mixtures thereof.

17. A process according to claim 15, wherein the ink composition includes from about 5% to about 50% of the emulsified phase by weight.

18. A process according to claim 15, wherein the ink composition includes from about 10% to about 35% of the emulsified phase by weight.

19. A process according to claim 15, wherein the ink composition includes from about 20% to about 30% of the emulsified phase by weight.

20. A process according to claim 15, wherein the emulsified phase includes a weak acid or a weak base.

21. A process according to claim 15, wherein the emulsified phase includes a hygroscopic inorganic salt.

22. A process according to claim 15, wherein the emulsified phase is nonaqueous.

23. A process according to claim 15, wherein the polymer has an acid number of at least about 3 mg KOH per gram nonvolatile.

24. A process according to claim 15, wherein the polymer has an acid number of from about 3 to about 30 mg KOH per gram nonvolatile.

25. A process according to claim 15, wherein the polymer has an acid number of from about 8 to about 25 mg KOH per gram nonvolatile.

26. A process according to claim 15, wherein the polymer is branched.

27. A process according to claim 26, wherein the polymer has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15,000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100,000.

28. A process according to claim 26, wherein the continuous phase further comprises a member selected from the group consisting of polyester resins, hydrocarbon resins, alkyd resins, phenolic resins, rosins, cellulosic resins, and modifications thereof, and mixtures thereof.

29. A process according to claim 26, wherein the plate conditioner comprises at least about 5% by weight of a liquid polyol.

30. A process according to claim 26, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from about 25% by weight to about 98% by weight of a liquid polyol.

31. A process according to claim 26, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from 50% by weight to about 95% by weight of a liquid polyol.

32. A process according to claim 26, wherein the solid organic compound has a melting point of at least about 25°C.

33. A process according to claim 26, wherein the organic liquid having hydroxyl functionality is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propanediol, 1,3-propanediol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, and combinations thereof.

34. A process according to claim 26, wherein the solid organic compound is selected from the group consisting of gum arabic, carboxyl methyl cellulose, carboxyl ethyl cellulose, salts of carboxyl-functional celluloses, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), solid polyalkylene glycols, trimethylolpropane, glycerol, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, 2,2,4-trimethylpentanediol, triethylolpropane, hyperbranched polyols based on polyols having three or more hydroxyl groups, cyclohexanedimethanols, and combinations thereof.

35. A process according to claim 26, wherein the plate conditioner comprises from about 0.1% by weight to about 1% by weight of the solid organic compound.

36. A process according to claim 26, wherein the plate conditioner further comprises water.